嘘解きレトリック
3
都戸利津
Shoujo Sense
Usotoki Rhetoric
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Chapter 13
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Chapter 13

RUSTLE
IWAI-SAN!
THE ONE INVESTI-GATING
THAT GHOST.

KUBO-KUN.
IF YOU GO DOWN THERE YOU'LL COME OUT AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WATER-FALL.
ARE THEY ALL THERE INVESTI-GATING?
I CAUGHT LOTS OF MASU SALMON.
I WAS GOING TO BRING IT FOR EVERYONE TO EAT.
GREAT TIMING.
CAN YOU HELP ME GO SOME-WHERE?
OF COURSE, BUT WHERE?
THAT SHRINE BY THE WATER-FALL.
?
THE POLICE AND THE DOCTOR
ARE BOTH LATE.
tap
tap

The detective went to find "the Shinako-san from yesterday".
SOUMA-KUN SAID HE HAD SOME CLUE, BUT...
IT'S EASY TO FEEL LIKE TIME IS SLOWING DOWN.
IN MOMENTS LIKE THIS,
"The Shinako-san we saw just now isn't the same Shinako-san from yesterday."
"It's a different person."
SHINAKO-SAN HAS A TWIN.
ANO-THER SHINAKO-SAN...?
ANOTHER SHINAKO-SAN.
I GUESS THERE REALLY IS

"I have two of each kimono."
WHY THERE ARE TWO OF EVERY KIMONO.
IT EXPLAINS HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO WALK AFTER BREAKING HER FOOT.
SO IT WASN'T A DOLL.
HOW WITNESSES SAW HER IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME.
THEY WERE TWO PEOPLE WEARING THE SAME KIMONO AND EXCHANGING PLACES.
THE TWO OF THEM ARE PRETENDING TO BE ONE PERSON.
But
BUT WHY?
I DON'T KNOW YET.
SOME TRADITIONS THINK TWINS ARE A BAD THING. SOME THINK IT'S A GOOD THING. IT DEPENDS ON THE REGION.

I WONDER IF TWINS ARE REVILED IN THEIR PARENTS' ORIGINAL HOMETOWN.
I WONDER IF THAT'S THE REASON WHY THEY HID THE FACT THAT THEY HAD TWINS.
"Shinako-san, do you have a twin?"
"Nope."
But Shinako-san wasn't lying then.
THEY'RE NOT TWINS.
THEY WERE THREE PEOPLE.
T-T-TRIPLETS ...?
I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT THERE AREN'T MORE, BUT...
More ?!
SHINAKO-SAN IS THREE PEOPLE.
AND ONE OF THEM DIED LAST MONTH.

That was Shinako-san's lie.
"No one died in this house."
LAST MONTH ...
SO WHAT INE-SAN SAW WASN'T A DOLL, BUT AN ACTUAL PERSON?!
REMEMBER WHAT SHINAKO-SAN SAID YESTERDAY
ABOUT THAT SCAR
ON THE DOLL'S CHEEK.
"It got hit."
"By the foot of the tray with the poison."
IF THAT DOLL JUST FELL ON ITS OWN,
ITS FACE WOULDN'T HAVE HIT THE FOOT OF THE TRAY.
THAT WAS
WHEN THE HUMAN FELL DOWN AFTER EATING THE RAT POISON.
SHINAKO-SAN KNOCKED THE DOLL DOWN.
SHE PUSHED THE DOLL HERSELF.
THAT'S WHY SHE KNEW ABOUT THE SCAR.
Shoujo Sense

THE SCARRED DOLL.
THE GIRL WHO LOOKS LIKE A DOLL,
AND THE CORPSE. THE NUMBERS JUST DON'T ADD UP.
"Everyone here is safe, no one died."
Did Shinako-san...?
THERE ARE THREE "SHINAKO"S.
ONE DIED, AND THE OTHER TWO HID IT BY SAYING IT WAS A DOLL.
THAT'S WRONG!!
SHINAKO-SAN ISN'T A TWIN.
SHINAKO-SAN SAID SHE WAS ALONE!
BUT SHE WAS LYING ABOUT THAT.
"After mom and dad died, it's just me."
That wasn't a lie.

It wasn't
a lie.
Eh?
YES, IT WASN'T A LIE.
SHE'S NOT A TWIN. THEY WERE TRIPLETS.
"IT'S JUST ME" DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S ALONE.
WHEN SHE'S REFERRING TO HERSELF, SHE SAYS "I".
"You're my guests, I'll do it..."
BUT WHEN SHE'S REFER-RING
TO ALL THE SHINAKOS, INCLUDING HER,
"No one can enter here but Shinako,"
SHE USES "SHINAKO."
THAT'S HOW
SHE HAS ALWAYS TALKED.

"I'm hungry too."
"Shinako will do it."
"Dad said they do this to improve Shinako's health."
"There was this reporter who sneaked in and took photos of me."
"I'll go back to the detached house."
"It was left for Shinako."
"Shinako said no."
Always ...?
Since when
"After mom and dad died, it's just Shinako."
THEY HIDE IN THAT SEPARATE HOUSE, AND TAKE TURNS GOING IN AND OUT DURING THE THREE MEALS.
SHINAKO-SAN IS THREE PEOPLE PRETENDING TO BE ONE.
JUST LIKE MIYABI-SAN SAYS.
did the detective notice this?

IF THEY HAVE TWO KIMONOS,
ANY NUMBER OF PEOPLE CAN SWITCH THEIR PRESENCE
THEY CAN HAVE MORE KIMONOS. FOOD.
AND OTHER SUPPLIES.
"Whatever their daughter eats, they prepare the same meal for the doll."
WHILE USING THE DOLLS AS AN EXCUSE
They dress her up every day. They had the doll watch their daughter's growth."
BY CUTTING THEIR HAIR STRAIGHT IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY
AND DRESSING LIKE DOLLS.
THEY DRAW YOUR ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE SUBTLE DIFFERENCES IN THEIR FACIAL FEATURES.
THAT WHOLE CUSTOM ABOUT RAISING DOLLS
WAS A PLOY TO DECEIVE EVERYONE THAT "SHINAKO" IS JUST ONE PERSON.

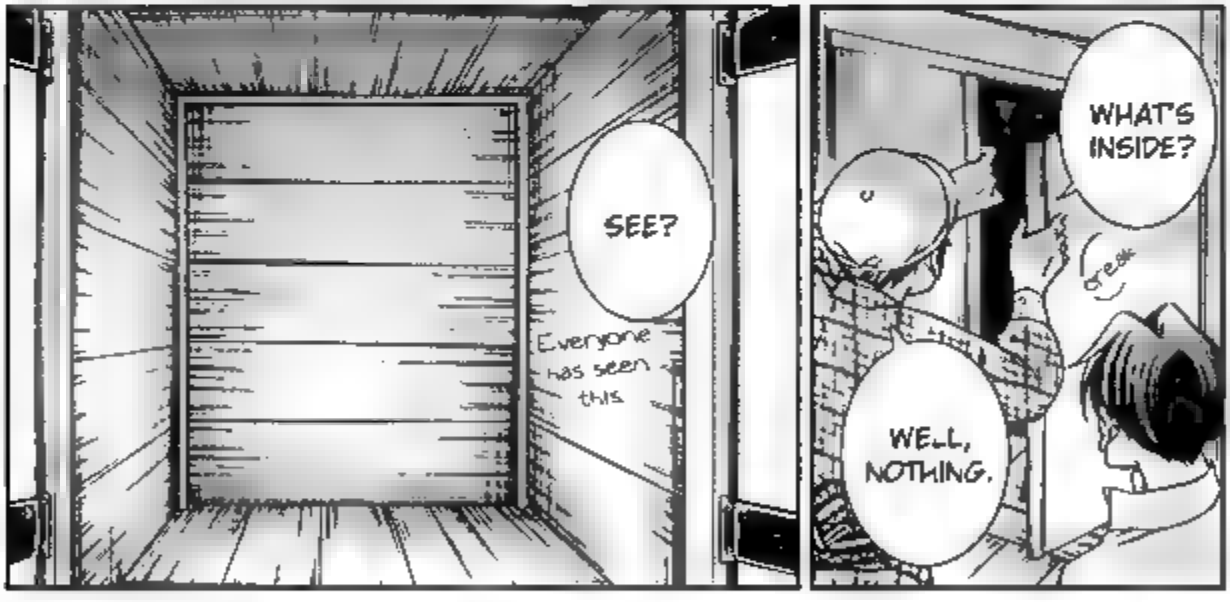
THE REASON WHY THEY'D DO THIS,
IS HIDDEN BY THE PARENTS THEMSELVES
EVEN WITHOUT THEM, SHINAKOS DECIDED TO CONTINUE ON WITH THIS CUSTOM.
EVEN WHEN ONE OF THEM DIED
"I'LL PROTECT IT."
THE BLOOD IN THE DOLL'S ROOM HASN'T YET DRIED UP.
!!
SO IT HASN'T BEEN THERE FOR LONG. THOUGH I'M NOT SURE
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING
LAST NIGHT'S SHINAKO IS DESTINED TO BECOME ONE OF THOSE DOLLS
JUST LIKE THE FIRST SHINAKO WHO DIED
Shinako-san...!!

WE HAVE TO SAVE HER!
WE STILL DON'T HAVE PROOF THAT THERE ARE TWO SHINAKOS.
IF WE DON'T FIND THE SHINAKO-SAN FROM LAST NIGHT SHE COULD END UP LIKE THE FIRST.
FIND HER?
WE ALREADY SEARCHED THE DOLL'S HOUSE AND SHE'S NOWHERE INSIDE.
AT THE VERY LEAST WE CAN FIND NO EVIDENCE OF SHINAKO-SAN GOING IN OR OUT OF THIS HOUSE BEFORE THE BLOOD HAS DRIED
"It's locked."
SHE HAS TO BE INSIDE
A MONTH AGO, WHEN THE FIRST SHINAKO DIED,
EVEN AFTER THE POLICE AND SHIBATA-SAN SEARCHED FOR IT,
THEY FOUND NOTHING
"We searched around the whole mansion but the body wasn't there."
I THINK,
THERE'S A HIDDEN ROOM IN THAT HOUSE.
THE BODY DISAPPEARED SOMEWHERE.
LIKE IN THAT HAUNTED MANSION FROM BEFORE...?

THERE WERE ONLY BEAMS ON THE CEILING SO THERE'S NO ATTIC.
AND YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING EITHER FROM THE WALLS.
IF THERE'S IS SOME SWITCH LIKE THE ONE FROM THE HAUNTED MANSION,
WE CAN'T DIRECTLY ASK SHINAKO-SAN.
THERE'S ONE MORE THING I WANT TO GO AND CHECK.
YOU GO CALL THE POLICE AND SEARCH THIS HOUSE.
And I asked for a lamp from the maids
I'M GOING TOO!
YOU CAN'T GO WEARING THAT.
PLEASE BORROW A LAMP FOR ME, KANOKO-KUN.
AND HURRY.
SOUMA-KUN, ARE YOU PLANNING TO CHECK ...
"Someone wearing a kimono will never be able to go there."
YES.
THE SHRINE BY THE WATER-FALLS.

SFX KSHHH
SO IWAI-SAN, ARE YOU SAYING,
THAT THIS SHRINE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE DOLL MANSION?

WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW SHE MUST HAVE DISAP-PEARED,
ALL I CAN GUESS IS SHE WENT INSIDE HERE.
THAT FIGURE YOU SAW HERE BE-FORE... HOW COULD HAVE SHINAKO-SAN CLIMBED THIS?
huff
ぜい
REALLY IS HELL.
GETTING HERE!
ぜい
ぜい
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
INDOOR TYPE


SEE?
Everyone has seen this
WHAT'S INSIDE?
WELL, NOTHING.

WOULD THEY MAKE THIS SHRINE TOO FAR OFF TO THE LEFT?
BUT WHY

SFX: BAM
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH
TIME!!
IS IT BECAUSE THEY'RE HIDING SOMETHING BEHIND IT?
BEHIND? THERE'S NOTHING BUT THE WALL.
THERE COULD BE SOME MECHANISM THAT OPENS THIS, BUT

I'VE CHECKED ALL OVER THE MAIN HOUSE AND THE DETACHED HOUSE, MS. REPORTER.
OH, YOU WERE RIGHT.

ARE YOU JUST GHOST HUNTING? IS THIS JUST A MAGAZINE FULL OF NON-SENSE?
ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT SHINAKO-SAN BEING TWO PEOPLE...
WELL, MISS...
THAT'S WHY I SAID SHE WAS HIDING! YOU CAN'T JUST CHECK, YOU HAVE TO SEARCH!!
THERE IS NOT ANOTHER SHINAKO-SAN.

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■ キャラクター②
● イネさん
女に行動力がある。
● 刑事さん
典型的な探偵モノの
頼りない振まわりの刑事さん。
つかり込み時間がない
ままに着場させた
人たちでしたが、
それなりに収穫を果に
してくれました。
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY MAGAZINE!
YOU'VE SEEN THE BLOOD, HAVEN'T YOU?!
YOU THINK THAT MUCH BLOOD CAN COME OUT OF THAT TINY WOUND?!
When the police arrived,
we asked them to search the premises.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON
I'M ASKING YOU TO SEARCH AROUND.

Shinako-san
cut herself.
THERE WAS A LOOSE THREAD ON ONE OF THE DOLLS ON TOP OF THE DRAWER.
SO I WENT TO CUT IT.
BUT THE DOLL FELL
AND I CUT MYSELF WITH THE SCISSORS.
That was how Shinako-san explained it to the police.
It was all lies.
THERE IS DEFINITELY NO OTHER SHINAKO-SAN
AND NO HIDDEN ROOM.

OKAY.
The only thing supporting the detective's theories
IF WE DON'T FIND ANYTHING, WE'LL LEAVE.
THEN LET US LOOK AROUND FOR ONE HOUR.
IT DOESN'T EXIST.
are the lies that only I can hear.
Other than these lies,
We don't have proof that there are two Shinakos.
That's why we have to find the Shinako from yesterday.
we do not have any other evidence.
Enough with you.
YOU'RE WASTING THE POLICE'S TIME WITH THESE WILD THEORIES.
SHINAKO-SAN IS THREE PEOPLE? AND THAT'S WHY THEY'RE RAISING THE DOLLS?
SHINAKO-SAN.
IS THERE AN ENTRANCE TO A HIDDEN ROOM.
IN THE DOLL'S ROOM?

The detective
"You'd have to trust your instincts, right?"
knew Shinako-san lied, but thought it would be better
If Shinako-san wasn't aware we knew.
AMAZING.
Even the detective said it was hard to draw out information from Shinako-san.
How would they hide a hidden room?
Under the floor?
What?
What?
THERE IS NO HIDDEN ROOM.
That didn't work.
"There were only beams on the ceiling so there's no attic."
"And you can't see anything either from the walls."
And yet he didn't say anything.
Yesterday, the detective...
"I was just wondering what's on the other side."
Peek
"Such a high roof."
was looking for a hidden room.

WHEN THE CORPSE AND THE OTHER SHINAKO-SAN,
WERE HIDDEN HERE.
LAST MONTH, WHEN SHIBATA-SAN WAS INVESTI-GATING THE MAN-SION,
SO THIS LEADS TO THE DOLL'S ROOM?
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND HOW THIS SHRINE WAS BUILT.
I SEE.
MAYBE.
THE MATE-RIALS
WERE BROUGHT IN FROM THE MANSION ENTRANCE AND CARRIED HERE.
STAIRS.

LOUNGE AND HIDDEN AREA.
IWAI-SAN! THERE'S ANOTHER SET OF STAIRS HERE!
IT'S THE SHINAKOS'
That...
TO THE DOLL MANSION?
DOES THIS LEAD,

was the kimono that was in the clothes rack!
I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO ONE HERE.
THEN SHINAKO-SAN APPEARED.
THE HIDDEN ROOM COULD REALLY BE IN THE DOLL'S ROOM.
SHI-BATA-SAN! WHY ARE YOU HERE?
DIDN'T YOU CALL FOR ME BECAUSE SOMEONE GOT HURT?
IT'S JUST LIKE WITH INE.
Oh, so you're a doctor
LAST MONTH, THERE WAS NO HUMAN. ALL WE FOUND WAS A DOLL.
TODAY WE COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING EITHER.
If we don't uncover anything, they're going to think that this was just another doll.
We have to find her.
It's just another room at the other side.
BUT
LOO
LOO

"What's good or bad changes depending on your circumstances and your perspective."

If we expose Shinako-san's lie,

someone is bound to be hurt.

IT WAS A DOLL!

And we still don't know

why Shinako-san is pretending to be one person.

NO ONE DIED.

even the detective doesn't want it exposed.
I think
IT GOT MIXED WITH THE SOUP I SPILLED SO IT LOOKS LIKE THIS.
THIS IS MY BLOOD
I'M NOT LYING.
YOU WON'T FIND ANYTHING NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU LOOK.
And I don't know the right way to go about this either.
I WAS THE ONE YOU INTERVIEWED YESTERDAY.
But
THERE IS NO OTHER SHINAKO. I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING.
YEAH, WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE
WE HAVE TO THINK THIS THROUGH FIRST BEFORE WE SEARCH FOR ANY EVIDENCE.
LET'S END THIS HERE.

No.
WE WON'T GET ANYWHERE WITH JUST GUESSES.
WE DO HAVE EVIDENCE!
WE DO.
Last night's Shinako-san
was a different person.

"I should have said 'Excuse me' before opening the door."
I can't just let them
SHE'S LYING!!
"Thank you!"
erase
her existence.

KANOKO-CHAN...
YOU'VE BEEN PRETENDING TO BE THE SHINAKO-SAN FROM YESTER-DAY
YOU'VE BEEN LYING THIS WHOLE TIME.
ARE ALL DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
AND THE SHINAKO-SAN THAT DIED LAST MONTH,
BUT THE SHINAKO-SAN FROM YES-TERDAY,

DON'T EVER SAY,
THAT THEY DON'T EXIST.
WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE SEEN IT BEFORE IT WILTED
I can't find her.
THE EPIPHYLLUM OXYPETALUM ONLY BLOOMS AT NIGHT
LOOK, IT'S WILTING

She really does exist.
Even I can't find her.
YES, IT WAS BEAUTIFUL.

SFX: WHAM
!!!!
PLEASE TELL US.
WHERE IS THE SHINAKO-SAN FROM YESTERDAY?
came in from the wall...
OWWW... I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD COME OFF THAT EASILY...
SFX: PLOD
WHAT'S WRONG?!
WHAT?!
A man.

the entrance to the hidden room?
IWAI-SAN!
I'M OUT! WE'RE AT THE DOLL MANSION.
KU... KUBO-KUN?
Where did you come from?
Is this
A DOLL...
DETEC...

Chapter 13 / END
第十三話／おわり